

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TAC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 6, 2017

Belmont Corner Meetinghouse, 17 Fuller St, Belmont, NH 03253

Voting Members Present

Sheldon Morgan (Chair), Gilford
Brad Harriman (Vice-Chair), Ossipee
Lloyd Wood, Tuftonboro
Rick Ball, Belmont
Robert Pollock, New Hampton
John Gotjen, Tamworth
David Toth, Ashland
George Tuthill, Alexandria

David Kerr, Barnstead

Stephen Favorite, Bristol

Mark Howard, Tuftonboro

Brian Barry, Franklin
Bill Dowey, Bristol
Dean Trefethen, Laconia
Paul Hazelton, Hebron

Others Present

Michael Izard, LRPC Principal Planner
Laurel Briere, LRPC Executive Assistant
Nic Strong, Alton
Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero, MSRCC/CAPBMCI

Presenters

Elizabeth Strachen, NHDES
William Finn, Administrator, Office of Services
for Blind and Visually Impaired
Tim Hindman, Coordinator, Office of Services for
Blind and Visually Impaired
Chuck Saia, Executive Director, Governor's
Commission on Disability (GCD)
Colleen Durkin-Blackburn, Accessibility
Specialist, GCD

Call to Order – Introductions – Past Minutes

Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. A motion was entertained to approve the draft minutes of the 6/7/17 meeting.

M/S/Passed - Tuthill/Favorite. (Abstaining: Gotjen)

No public comment

Regional Updates

TIP Update – NHDOT/RPC Meeting Overview

M. Izard discussed the TIP meeting with NHDOT about how regional priorities compare with state priorities. He spoke about the Gilford Improvements on Route 11, that the section will likely cost more than the proposal. DOT suggested waiting until after 2019 when \$250,000 will be available for planning in-corridor options and determining the best solution. He discussed his agreement with the idea and shared concern that there aren't many other projects in the queue. He suggested thinking about other priorities and looking at past corridor studies. Some discussion ensued.

M. Izard also discussed draft curb ramps designs for new construction and retrofits being developed by NHDOT engineers; a project funded through the Highway Safety Improvement

Program. Displayed some draft images. He noted that DOT may be able to attend October meeting to discuss design concepts and offered to send draft to interested TAC members.

Draft State Ten Year Plan 2019-2028 – GACIT Hearings Schedule

M. Iazard passed out GACIT meeting schedule, encouraging everyone to attend at least one meeting. He noted that one meeting is being held in the Lakes Region (Laconia).

D. Kerr shared observations of the construction progress at Peacham Road/NH Route 28; noting that some residents have been complaining about the traffic delays, but the project will have been worth it when completed. When that project is done the DOT will move to North/North Barnstead/NH Route 28 which is in the Ten-Year Plan.

B. Dowey spoke about West Shore Rd. Will ultimately be safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Newfound Pathways is planning a celebratory bike ride on October 7 when improvements are done.

TAC Election of Officers

S. Morgan opened floor to nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of TAC.

Chair

Nomination of Sheldon Morgan as Chair by D. Kerr, seconded by S. Favorite. No other nominees.

Motion to re-elect Sheldon Morgan as Chair passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair

Nomination of Brad Harriman as Vice-Chair by R. Ball, seconded by L. Wood. No other nominees.

Motion to re-elect Brad Harriman as Vice-Chair passed unanimously.

Presentations

Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) FY17 State Clean Diesel Grant Program

Elizabeth Strachan, NH DES Air Resources Division

Elizabeth Strachan described DERA; what it is and its purpose. It was part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 aimed at reducing emissions from diesel engines by providing support for projects that protect human health and improve air quality. She shared that the NH DERA program anticipated total is between \$338,000 - \$550,000. If they can incorporate the funds from the VW Settlement the amount will be larger.

She reviewed eligible projects, primarily focusing on replacing entire vehicles since that is more often the case in NH. Some funding restrictions may apply, such as the age of the vehicle being replaced, but this may be waived after discussion. Major restrictions are: the vehicle must be used for at least three (3) years after replacement and replacing the vehicle can't be in the local Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The vehicle being replaced must also be destroyed or made permanently inoperable (chassis cut in half and three (3) inch hole cut in gas tank). Towns can get money for scrapping the vehicle or by selling the parts.

There is a draft Request For Proposal (RFP) available on the NHDES website, will be replaced by final RFP soon. First round of applications by October 1st and 15th. Contact info was provided for anyone with questions. Elizabeth.strachan@des.nh.gov.

A brief Q&A followed regarding restrictions.

NH Department of Education, Office of Services for Blind and Visually Impaired

William Finn

William Finn introduced himself and the other presenters and thanked TAC for inviting them. He noted that they wanted to use this presentation as a pilot program to potentially do similar presentations elsewhere in the future.

C. Saia discussed the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Governor's Commission on Disability. The GCD is part of ADA and is meant to be a source of education and a resource for others. He had a newsletter and brochure to share with more information.

C. Durkin-Blackburn presented on accessible infrastructure. She shared images of proper and improper accessible transportation oriented infrastructure (i.e. ramps, road markings). She discussed why it's important not only for people with disabilities but for everyone. T. Hindman discussed visual impairments, describing five (5) common vision patterns. He demonstrated the use of the white cane, the proper way to guide a visually impaired person (they hold the back of the guide's elbow), and important notes on etiquette:

- Do not force help on a visually impaired person or assume they need help
- Do something to let the visually impaired person know you are speaking to them
- Do not be too quiet. Be polite, but make noise so they know where you are
- Do not ignore them

T. Hindman opened the floor to questions and offered the use of simulators for common visual disabilities he had brought with him. A brief Q&A period followed.

Other Business

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in the Humiston Building

L. Wood suggested B. Harriman demonstrate new technique for paving for a future meeting.

S. Morgan thanked B. Harriman for helping when he's unavailable, thanked M. Izard and L. Briere for background work and thanked R. Ball for his help. He also commented that he likes having meetings in different locations. He recommended continuing doing that and asked for location suggestions.

Motion entertained to adjourn at 3:56 PM.

M/S/Passed – Gotjen/Favorite